

carriage 22, a head 21, a resilient member 11, 12, 13, which includes a lever 11, and an ink jet cartridge. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 33 defines an ink jet printer, comprising a carriage, a head, an ink cartridge, and “a resilient member supporting said ink cartridge on said carriage in a direction of movement of said carriage.” In contrast, Suzuki does not teach or suggest a resilient member for supporting an ink cartridge on a carriage “in a direction of movement of the carriage.” That is, Suzuki does not disclose a resilient member that supports an ink cartridge in the lateral or carriage-moving direction. Rather, Suzuki describes a V-shaped bent part 12, which presses printing head 21 against carrier 22 in the vertical direction, and two corrugated bent pieces 13, which “protrude from both side parts of the clamp lever in opposed relationship” to press print head 21 in a “before and behind direction.” Thus, when the printing head 21 is positioned on the carrier with lever 11 positioned around printing head 21, V-shaped part 12 presses printing head 21 against carrier 22 from above and corrugated bent pieces 13 prevent movement of printing head 21 in the forward and backward direction, perpendicular to the carriage-moving direction. Therefore, Suzuki does not teach or suggest supporting the ink jet cartridge in the lateral or carriage-moving direction.

By providing resilient members at either side of the cartridge in the direction of movement, better dampening effects are provided for the ink cartridge. The construction and arrangement of tongues 85, the resilient members supporting the ink cartridge on the carriage, aid in reducing the vibrations and ancillary noise due to the vibrations of the carriage when the carriage reverses direction. The tongues of the lever resiliently support the ink cartridge in the carriage. Therefore, when the carriage moves in either direction, the inertial force and vibrations of the ink carriage are transmitted to the carriage through the tongues. Because of the construction of these resilient members, the inertial force of the ink cartridge is transmitted to the carriage in a dampened state and any vibrations and noise are reduced.

On the other hand, Suzuki, which has no such resilient member, utilizes the V-shaped bent part 12 to clamp the cartridge onto the carriage because there is no flexure in the direction of movement. The flexure in Suzuki includes part 12 flexing in the up/down direction and bent pieces 13 flexing in the front/rear direction. As a result, print head 21 is urged against an upper surface of carriage 22 in Suzuki. As a result, the resilient force of the V-shaped bent part forces the cartridge against the carriage. It is the friction generated between the carriage 22 and the print head 21 which secures the head 21 in the lateral or carriage moving direction. Thus, vibration transmitted along the carriage

moving direction is not dampened because head 21 is not resiliently supported in this direction.

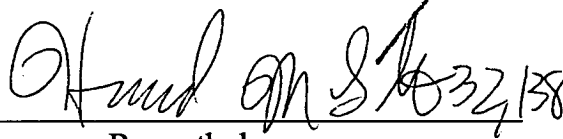
Furthermore, although the Examiner contends that Suzuki discloses an ink cartridge, nothing in Suzuki teaches or discloses an ink jet cartridge. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Moreover, as claims 34, 36, 37, and 41 each depend from claim 33, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims define additional structure which is not taught or suggested by Suzuki. For example, claim 41 more specifically identifies the result of dampening from the resilient member construction. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place this application in condition for allowance. However, if upon review of the application, the Examiner is unable to issue

an immediate Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' attorney with a view towards resolving the outstanding issues, giving the person who answers the telephone our Docket No. 448563/046.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence Rosenthal", with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

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